

ANIMAL TOTEM

On Permanent
Loan
from the Artist

ARTIST: C.R. Schiefer
MEDIUM: Indiana Limestone

ABOUT THE WORK

Traditionally, totem poles were carved by Native Americans to represent a family of spirits who work together and support one another throughout life. Like these Native American sculptors, who used readily available wood such as cedar to create their poles, C.R. Schiefer created this pole from Indiana limestone, a material abundant in Indiana. Totem poles can have many meanings depending on where they are placed and who has carved them. Animal Totem recognizes and celebrates the respect and love that exists between people and animals. This spirit of understanding is promoted everyday through the work done by the staff of the City of Bloomington Animal Shelter.



Animal Totem

ABOUT THE ARTIST

C.R. Schiefer is a self-taught stone sculptor. He discovered sculpting in 1974 after 25 years as a speech pathologist. Schiefer began his career making small saleable items for major art fairs along the East Coast. Acting on his larger creative urges, Schiefer began making monumental stone sculptures and garden-sized works. He now maintains a 150-acre sculpture garden in Martinsville, Ind. His talent for creating enchanting totems made him a perfect fit for collaboration with the Bloomington Animal Shelter.

DID YOU KNOW?

C.R. Schiefer's son, Karl Schiefer, also a sculptor, created the *Dog and Cat* sculpture described on the opposite panel.

DOG AND CAT

ABOUT THE WORK

Weighing two tons and carved in six weeks, this sculpture represents the two most popular animals found at the City of Bloomington Animal Shelter. Months of research and discussion between the Animal Shelter and the artist determined the appearance of the animals and their positioning in this collaborative piece. Today, the sculpture provides both a welcoming image to visitors along with a place to rest on one of the two benches carved into its base.



Dog and Cat

ARTIST: Karl Schiefer
MEDIUM: Indiana Limestone
DEDICATION YEAR: 2005

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Owner of Golden Rule Stone Company, Karl Schiefer has been a Bloomington resident since 1981. Originally a carpenter, Schiefer decided to follow in the footsteps of his father, noted limestone sculptor C. R. Schiefer, and began creating smaller limestone pieces. Drawing on his 25 years of experience working in stone mills, Karl's artistic catalog grew and now includes works varying from simple to highly detailed pieces. His talent for accurately depicting animals in stone led to his collaboration with the City of Bloomington Animal Shelter. Karl's work can be seen throughout Indiana as well as in New York, Washington D.C. and Chicago.



Photo Courtesy of Monroe County Public Library

DID YOU KNOW?

The Animal Shelter isn't the only place in Bloomington you can find limestone animals. Three polar bears can be seen playing in front of the Monroe County Public Library on E. Kirkwood Avenue. These life-size cubs, Sunny, Luna and Snowdrop, were also carved by Karl Schiefer and have become a favorite attraction of visitors to the library.

2004
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